The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 2023 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 3

Listen to Frank Edwards On Mutual at 10

Bakery Workers Win Rose Parade Award

Pasadena, Calif.—This float entered in the Rose Parade by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union of the AFL won an award of merit. Lee Roy Ivy of Bakers Local 37 (left) and Paul Jensen, assistant director of the Baking Industry Council of Southern California, hold the American flag.

Edwards at Work

Washington.—Frank Edwards, commentator sponsored by the AFL on Mutual Broadcasting System at 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, tears a story off the telegraphic news ticker preparatory to writing his program for the air. He is shown in his office in the AFL building.

March of Dimes Girl Greets Green

Washington.—Wanda Wiley, 8, Austin, Texas, this year's March of Dimes poster girl, greets AFL President William Green during her visit here opening the annual campaign of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Wanda's father, a house painter, She was stricken with polio in 1948 along with her 16-year-old sister. Mr. Green assured her that the 3,000,000 A.F. of L. members will donate generously to the campaign to control and stamp out the disease.

Green Helps Open London Hospital

London.—AFL President William Green found participation in the opening exercises of the Clapham Park Rehabilitation Center one of the most pleasant experiences of his recent visit to London for the opening conference of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The AFL and CIO contributed $250,000 for the purchase of the hospital site. Shown are an orthopedic instructor demonstrating a new device to Julius Holmes, American minister to the United Kingdom; Sam Lesser, president of the CIO American Newspaper Guild and director of labor information for the Economic Cooperation Administration in Europe, and Mr. Green.

Denham Claims T-H Repudiated Wagner

Washington.—Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, has laid low for all time to come the fiction that the Taft-Hartley law "preserves the best of the Wagner Act."

Apologists for the one-sided Taft-Hartley law claim they kept all the best things of the Wagner Act but "have added some responsibilities for labor unions."

Mr. Denham, whose advocacy of Taft-Hartley has seemed to embarrass even Senator Robert A. Taft on occasion, says flatly that passage of the Taft-Hartley Act "repudiated the Wagner Act and its administration."

He said so in an angry speech attacking the National Labor Relations Board's administration of the present law.

"There have been many decisions by the board in recent months to which I have been unable to subscribe as being consonant with the broad purposes and intent of the law," Mr. Denham said.

In bitter vein, he assailed the board:

"When you stop to realize that, beginning with the membership of the National Labor Relations Board itself, and going down through the entire structure of the personnel of the agency, by far the majority of the membership, both of the board and of whose employees, agreed to and made up, in August of 1947, and still consist of persons who were raised in the climate of the philosophy and, I think I may say in the opinion of the Wagner Act, it is small wonder that there has been difficulty in obtaining a divorcement of thinking among these people from that old Wagner Act formula.

"When you have spent 10 years or so, saturated with the statutory and administrative theory that one segment of our economic society must be protected, no matter what, and that the offsetting segment of that society must be saddled with the blame for everything that happens, even though the actual offender may frequently be found in the protected group, the habit of thinking and reacting is hard to eradicate. Such eradication cannot be accomplished by a firm determination to abandon it when the principles of the law has been repudiated, as the Wagner Act has been repudiated, as repudiated by the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act.

But Mr. Denham ignored the 1948 election results which the AFL considers a mandate for labor's rights. Apparently, he will understand that only when the 1950 returns give the nation a Congress which will repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

DON'T BE FOOLED!

Washington.—Don't be fooled by claims of Sen. Robert A. Taft that he will be re-elected in 1950.

That's the advice of AFL Labor's League for Political Education.

The same 'experts' who grandly dismissed President Truman's chances last year "don't learn a thing," says the League Reporter. "It is they who now are whispering that labor's going to lose Ohio. Or, how can it expect to win in Pennsylvania?

"What working people need to do to win at the polls this year is simple. They must stand on their program for better health, better housing, better working conditions, better education, more security for workers, the aged and the unemployed, stable prices for the farmer, fair profits for the businessman.

"And, of course, they must vote."

'Variety' Rates Edwards Socko!

New York.—Variety, show business bible, likes Frank Edwards, AFL news commentator.

The hard-bitten weekly called "the choice of Edwards a wise one"—almost the equivalent of labeling his choice socko! Variety said:

"Frank Edwards, with Joe McCafferty, announcer, 15 minutes, Monday through Friday, 10 p.m., American Federation of Labor, sponsor, Mutual, from New York.

"In an era of right-to-center slanted news commentary, the addition of Frank Edwards to the must-to-omit airlanes is something of a novelty, not to mention its healthy overtones in helping to 'balance' the kilocycle's scales.

"Edwards is the commentator chosen for the American Federation of Labor's cross-the-board Mutual stint which premiered last week.

"As part of the commercial he's inserted as representing 8,000,000 clients (AFL membership) and there's little doubt but that he's addressing himself to the labor elements. But there's nothing dogmatic about Edwards. That he is opinionated is to be expected, but he never resorts to the sledge-hammer, bit-the-listener-over-the-head type of analysis or interpretation.

"He's at all times soft-spoken, clear and concise. He doesn't waste minutes words and restricts himself to five minutes (the U. S. budget, China, John L. Lewis, etc.) that have a bearing on his 9,000,000 clientele.

"Program also gets a transcribed pick-up in the AFL-CIO merger talks.

"The choice of Edwards is a wise one."—Kose.

ZARITSKY TELLS PLAN TO RETIRE

New York.—Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of the AFL, has announced that he will not stand for reelection at the union's biennial convention May 1.

Mr. Zaritsky, who will be 65 next April 15, has headed the 40,000-member union since 1936. Under the union constitution retirement is mandatory at 65 years.

Mr. Zaritsky has headed the union since 1936, but his leadership actually began in 1919, when he was elected president of the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union. This organization merged with the United Hatters in 1934 to form the present organization. Mr. Zaritsky served as secretary-treasurer until and then became president of the merged union.

A special meeting of the international executive board will be held in March to discuss possible successors to Mr. Zaritsky. The final choice will be up to the convention.

Nominations are expected to receive consideration for the post are 5 vice presidents—Abraham Mendelowitz, I. H. Goldberg and Nathaniel Spector.

Los Angeles ILGWU Selects Dr. Igloe

Los Angeles.—Dr. Max C. Igloe, chief district health officer of the Chicago Department of Health, has been appointed medical director for the new health center of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of the AFL.

Appointment of Dr. Igloe for the big Southern California center was announced by Louis Levy, the union's international vice president and Pacific Coast director.

The Union health center, which will safeguard the health of Southern California union garment workers, will occupy the ground floor of the 1130 E. Maple Ave., recently purchased by the union. A total of $500,000 has been deposited in an operating fund to begin operating the building.

RECOMMENDED READING

Washington.—The AFL Research Report recommends a new book for "unions who have to know the ins and outs of National Labor Relations Board proceedings." It is "How to Take a Case Before the National Labor Relations Board," by Gerard D. Silverberg, board director of information. Published by the Bureau of National Affairs, Washington, the 200-page volume at $5 is "a very complete account of what unions have to know in order to do business before the NLRB."

Green Asks Support For March of Dimes

Washington.—AFL President William Green called upon the AFL membership to support the annual March of Dimes drive of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis beginning Jan. 16.

In a letter sent to all AFL affiliates, Mr. Green urged members "to volunteer their services generously as possible to the financial appeal of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis." He pointed out that polio had afflicted "many of the children of working people."

Noting that the number of polio victims had skyrocketed during the past year, the AFL chief called for "increasing financial help." He said the "need is very great" to help the victims of this disease and pointed out that in many instances polio victims had been saved by expert medical care made possible by the National Foundation.

Mr. Green's appeal came on the heels of an announcement by Basil O'Connor, chairman of the board, that $31,000,000 had been expended by the foundation, has requested labor unions and union members to make their contributions directly to the local National Foundation chapter in their vicinity.

PETRILLO PRAISES L. A. LOCAL UNION

Los Angeles.—President James C. Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians extended congratulations to Los Angeles Musicians Local 47 on completion of its new home at 817 North Vine in Hollywood.

The 14,500 members of Local 47 have been active in community affairs.

With the dedication of your magnificent new home at the hub of the entertainment world," Mr. Petrillo said, "a long and trying migration comes to an end and a significant achievement in musicians' unity and perseverance is realized.

Speaking on the progress of the Musicians' Union in Los Angeles Mr. Petrillo said:

"I have the admire today the impressive steel and concrete structure, but I remember back to the day when Local 47's members led a negative existence. Then the leadership was not too exacting, sometimes seeming to be content to accept earnings from a pool table or lunch bar to piece out the $30 per week dues from the delinquents.

"Progress is too often like that. It blunts memories of hardship, sometimes to the extent of a total appreciation of how man, or a union of men, achieved dignity and independence."

Mr. Petrillo said the new building is a symbol of the growth of a union that was born in borrowed city rooms back in August, 1894, and of those early musicians who actually laid the cornerstone of today's modern structure.

UNION GUESTS

Washington.—Rep. Jack Shelley of California and Rep. Leonard Irving of Missouri, both AFL union officials serving in Congress, were listed as guests of honor for the Washington, D. C. Building Trades Council luncheon on Jan. 23.

Green Asks Action On Civil Rights

Washington.—AFL President William Green said that "progress no longer can safely delay the enactment of legislation to establish civil rights program."

Mr. Green stated a statement in support of the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization held in Washington.

"Time and time again, majorities in Congress have made progress toward the enactment of part of this program only to meet defeat at the hands of a determined minority through filibustering and other delaying tactics," Mr. Green said.

"Conditions at home and abroad now demand prompt action to eliminate racial and religious discrimination. The American Federation of Labor pledges its support to the enactment of civil rights legislation at this session of Congress."

Gray Says Record Home Building Fails to Meet Middle-Income Need

Washington.—President Richard J. Gray of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department told Congress that 1949's record home-building still failed to meet the need for middle-income housing.

He told the Senate Banking and Currency subcommittee considering the cooperative housing amendment to the middle-income housing bill to recommend favorable action. He said:

"Not only does the record level of home building not meet our overall needs; in particular, it does not meet the needs of middle-income families, those with incomes of $2,500 to $4,000 a year.

"The fact is," Mr. Gray said, "the need for construction of new homes for moderate-income families is at least as great now as it was last summer."

Mr. Gray, speaking for the AFL, gave approval to the major provisions of the bill. He said the AFL's one major criticism is that the bill fails to establish a separate agency for administration of the program.

"We in the AFL believe that this cooperative housing program represents a milestone in meeting the overall housing problem in this country," Mr. Gray said. He said he believes the cooperative program under the bill would construct multiple dwelling units for rent for 400 per month for 40-room units compared to those presently available for $80 to $100 a month.

Mr. Gray said the AFL will be most active under the bill.

"The responsibility for the success of this program will not end once it has been written into law," Mr. Gray said. "We feel that our membership is in a position to make a major contribution to its success.

The Building and Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL has established 2 building trades workers. In larger communities, the size of the project will depend upon our day-to-day efforts to show that all of us in the AFL building trades unions want to establish the sort of good experience in the construction field to help make the program a success.

"I know that as soon as this legislation is enacted it is almost through-out the country will be among the most active groups in local communities in organizing cooperative housing projects."

T. J. DUFFY DIES, SERVED POTTERS

Columbus, Ohio—Thomas J. Duffy, former president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters of the AFL, died Jan. 12. Services were held here Jan. 16. He was a brother of James J. Duffy, incumbent president of the Potters.

AFL President William Green said he was "enormously sorry" upon learning of Mr. Duffy's death.

"It was my privilege to be associated and work with him during my presidency of the organization of the Ohio Workmen's Compensation law," Mr. Green said. "He rendered excellent service also in the administration of the law, and the enactment of a very great law as a result of his efforts."

A BUSY MAN O'CONNOR

Washington.—Here's what happened to Frank O'Connor starting the New Year:

He was elected president of Stone and Marble Masons' Union No. 2 of the AFL; re-elected secretary-treasurer of the Washington, D. C. Building Trades Council, and reappointed a labor representative on Commissioner Young's board to study the minimum wage and industrial safety board for a full 3-year term.

RENTS GO UP WHEN CONTROLS COME OFF

Washington.—Rents skyrocketed 16.2 to 41.3 percent in 6 cities where federal rent controls were junked, the govern- ment reports.

Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods, who administers the instrument, is removing so many rent controls to the disadvantage of tenants, made public a survey made for him by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mr. Woods said that when rents are decontrolled they rise quickly, steeply and apparently continuously.

What more proof does Congress need for continuing rent controls another year?

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Your Boss Knows You Rate 75 Cents Wage

Washington.—The U. S. Department of Labor has told your boss that workers covered by the wage-hour law rate 75-cents an hour minimum wage beginning Jan. 25.

More than 600,000 employers throughout the country are receiving new posters to inform workers of the major provisions of the amended wage-hour law. The employers are required to display the posters where workers can see them.

Buy Stamps For Year AFL Unions Urged

Washington.—Buy a year's supply of Samuel Gompers stamps!

That is the suggestion to AFL local unions and members made by AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

His proposal is endorsed by AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and other AFL officials.

"By buying a year's supply of stamp and using them on all mail, AFL members and unions can keep the sentimental celebration of Samuel Gompers' birth alive throughout 1950," Mr. Doherty said. "There is a good chance that such a move will enhance the price of the stamps and require re-issues."

The Letter Carriers Department said that 112,000,000 of the stamps will be printed in the first run. They will be sold for the first time on Jan. 27, the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, in Washington only. Later they will be sold by all of the more than 40,000 post offices in the country.

More than 400,000 requests for first-day covers have been received by postal authorities, the carriers' group reported. Vice President William Green and governmental officials participating are being planned.

Star Says Gompers Influence Lives On

Samuel Gompers

Washington.—Born Jan. 27, 1850, in London, he was 31 years old when first elected president of the American Federation of Labor which he served through all the intervening years except for the 1 year he was defeated in 1924. The AFL is celebrating the centennial anniversary of his birth with a year-long organizational campaign.

Washington. — The conservative Washington Evening Star said in an editorial that Samuel Gompers' influence still is felt throughout the nation."

The opinion was expressed in an editorial published on the occasion of the AFL's Golden Centennial Dinner held Jan. 6 opening a year-long celebration of the 100th birthday of the founder of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Gompers was born Jan. 27, 1850.

"Mr. Gompers himself appreciated his place in the history of his times. Washingtonians remember him not simply as head of the AFL, but also as a publicist, a social philosopher, with ideas and opinions on everything under the sun.

"The little Dutch Jewish immigrant boy of 1863 grew to maturity in a world rapidly developing new issues, new conflicts, which claimed his attention and which he parsip if ever attempted to avoid. Throughout his career, he kept his mind and his heart open to what was going on about him. He was especially interested in economic, social and political developments but he likewise was receptive to happenings in such distant fields as music and literature, drama and painting.

"A major enthusiasm of his life, however, was the sense of solidarity among working people. A cobbler that the individual laborers or craftsmen could not bargain successfully as a unit, but must bargain collectively.

Mr. Gompers applied himself to the task of discovering competent union leadership wherever it could be found, and he set a personal example for the young lieutenants he discovered. Thus the American Federation of Labor became a reflection of his conceptions, his methods, his objectives."

List Steps to Avoid A World Depression

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—One of the most meaningful documents to have come out of the United Nations since its inception has just been published under the title of "National and International Measures for Full Employment."

Prepared by internationally - renowned experts, the document of 100 pages sets up a broad program for the achievement of full employment and the elimination of cyclical depression.

The men who wrote the report include the conservative Prof. John M. Clark of Columbia University; Prof. Arthur Smithies of Harvard; Nicholas Kaldor, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge; Pierre Uri, of France, and E. Ronald Walker of Australia.

The report bases itself on the pledge in the UN Charter that all member nations should "promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development" and that "all members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action . . . for the achievement of (these) purposes."

Even though the world economy is not on the brink of economic disaster the report declares, "the essential fact remains that the international scene is clouded with uncertainty concerning levels of economic activity and employment in major industrial countries of the world.

"That uncertainty can be removed only if governments can assure the world that they are in a position to deal with a recession if it occurs."

What gives this report its striking importance is that it challenges modern capitalism to clean its house and thereby demonstrate that totalitarianism is not the answer.

The first requirement for a successful employment policy is for governments to establish "a full employment target that will provide a guidepost for their policy. This target may be expressed in terms of percentages of wage-earners out of work or seeking work; with proper allowance for the full time equivalent of part hours of work by persons who are working on short time but who would be glad able to work full time.

The urgent thing, the document stresses, is that action to offset economic fluctuations should be prepared in advance and should come into effect without delay as soon as the actual course of events shows that such action is needed.

The recommendations in the report's third section will occasion the greatest interest among trade unionists. These policies are divided into two groups—national and international. Here is what the UN experts recommend the government do:

Adopt and announce a full employment target as a standard to be attained combined with a program on monetary, wages and price policies (including anti-monopoly policies.)

"It is essential, and announce," the report urges, "an appropriate budgetary program and measures designed to expand effective demand to the extent required in addition to for automatic application in case its employment target is predominant for three successive months."

Among the "automatic compensatory measures" are alternative tax schedules, preferably lower personal income rates and exemptions, a scheme designed to raise purchasing power.

To insure the stability of prices so that they will not go up in an inflationary spiral, stabilization policies will have to be adopted.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Listen to Frank Edwards On Mutual at 10

Core of the AFL: Organize!

By HARRY E. O'REILLY
AFL Director of Organizing

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor, from its birth in 1881, has recognized the crucial importance of the organization of working people and has never relinquished this key responsibility to any other obligation or activity.

It is true that at times it has appeared as if other subjects of interest to labor were receiving the spotlight, but no matter what temporary impression might be obtained at various periods by those to whom we are fully informed, the fact is and has always been that organization is the very core of the American Federation of Labor.

This has been the case from the very start of our movement. In December of 1881, at the first session of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, which became the American Federation of Labor in 1886, the little band of courageous pioneers assembled at Pittsburgh plainly set forth that the object of the new organization was "the encouragement and formation of local trade and labor unions."

It was a fact in 1881 and it is still a fact in 1950 that in some walks of life a small and inconsequential union can be fairly effective, but this is emphatically not true in the field of labor.

Working people, it may are to have their needs satisfied, if they are to secure and maintain progressive legislation, and the abolition of undesirable conditions, must be organized into sufficient numbers to be in every particular effective. In every occupational category where a group organizes and presents the grievances of its members, it is the economic necessity of those who already belong to the union. Everybody must belong to the union.

Down through the years the history of the American Federation of Labor has put its greatest effort into the supreme task of which the AFL was established, the organization of the unorganized. In the records show that, on the whole, the endeavors of the Federation and its affiliates in this all-important field have been tremendously successful.

During the 881 the federation grew to 50,000 union workers. Thereafter membership went on, after great struggle, to occasional setbacks, but the trend was consistently upward and forward. The membership figure passed 1,000,000 then it passed 2,000,000 and 3,000,000, and at the time of World War I there were more than 4,000,000 members of the AFL, men and women living in every section of the United States, Canada and the territories of the U. S., workers engaged in scores of useful occupations.

This year, 1950, is the 69th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, founder and father of the American Federation of Labor. Throughout the North American continent this will be a year of celebrations. The memory of our greatest labor statesman will be honored in many places and various ways.

If Sam Gompers were alive today, he would do as he did regularly during his long career, lay down a keynote in organization. And that is the purpose assigned for labor's birthday this year, as decided by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, is to bring into sharper focus for all our members, union by union, the necessity for labor to make it possible for every wage earner to have the full opportunity for economic security, and to accomplish before which we intend to do before the close of 1950 as the most effective of all possible memorials to our beloved former standard bearer.

Organizing rallies are being held and will continue to be held throughout the United States and Canada.

The American Federation of Labor and its Department of Organization have the coordinating responsibility in this great drive, but unanimity and cooperation of every State Federation of Labor, every national and international body are of the utmost importance. Equally vital are the assistance and cooperation of all organizers, officers and representatives of labor as well as of every rank-and-file member of the American Federation of Labor.

There are those who say that the organization of 1,000,000 new members in the course of 12 months is a difficult assignment. I prefer to regard it as a challenge and an opportunity for all of us to show our ability to bring the benefits of trade unionism to those who are still outside the fold of the American Federation of Labor. With enthusiasm and hard work, with cooperation all up and down the line, we can do the job.

American Jewish Group Is Praised

New York.—AFL President William Green lauded the American Jewish Committee's efforts on behalf of "persecuted and oppressed people" on the occasion of the committees 43d anniversary.

President Green in his message to Dr. John Thurwen, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, said:

"I extend to the American Jewish Committee as it looks at the 43d anniversary beginning January 20, my warm personal and official greetings and best wishes for the success of the annual meeting. The American Jewish Committee has rendered excellent service in the supreme task of which the AFL was established, the organization of the unorganized. In the records show that, on the whole, the endeavors of the Federation and its affiliates in this all-important field have been tremendously successful.

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Organizing rallies are being held

SHOW UNION LABEL IN ROSES PARADE

Pasadena, Calif.—The union label of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union stood out prominently in national favor ahead of the float which the union and other AFL organizations entered in the great annual Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day.

The Bakery and Confectionery Workers Joint Executive Board of Los Angeles and vicinity promoted the entry in cooperation with the Hollywood Film Council of the AFL Theatrical Stage Employees. They carefully followed the design created by Maynard Dixon, prominent art director, in creating the float 35 feet long, 18 feet wide and 15 feet high.

George Stuart, vice president of the Bakery Workers from the Kansas City area, witnessed the parade. He said he was highly pleased with the AFL entry because he believes participation in such events by unions and joint boards is most beneficial in creating public goodwill toward organized labor.

More than 2,000,000 persons saw the float.

QUOTED IN RECORD

Washington.—The Minneapolis Labor Review of Jan. 6, 1950, was placed in the Congressional Record for Jan. 11. Sen. Robert H. Humphrey inserted in the Record the article, "Samuel Gompers—His Story," distributed by the AFL News Service and published in the Minneapolis paper.

Committee Offers Gompers Material

New York.—The Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee announces the opening of offices at 265 W. 42d St., New York 18, N. Y.

"The office will serve as a clearing-house" for material on Mr. Gompers and for general information helpful in the preparation of celebrations," the committee said.

The committee urged all AFL unions, state federations and central labor bodies to start at once on plans for celebration in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL. Mr. Gompers was born in London on Jan. 27, 1850.

The calendar of coming events include radio programs, dinners and conferences sponsored by AFL bodies and outside organizations, a series of radio recordings of speeches on Mr. Gompers and dramatization of episodes in his life are in preparation.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin is scheduled to deliver an address on Mr. Gompers during "The Eternal Light" broadcast at 12:30 p.m., EST, Jan. 29 over the National Broadcasting Co. Ezra Stone, radio actor, will take part in the dramatization.

LAUDS MUSICIANS PARTY FOR DPs

Washington.—AFL President William Green praised the action of the 49 of the AFL American Federation of Musicians, Portland, Ore., in contributing 125 displaced persons in the U. S. to the development of life in the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Green said the project was "dramatic implementation" of the AFL resolution supporting displaced persons legislation.

"The displaced persons of other lands who have found a haven of refuge in America, indeed will become useful citizens only as soon as they have been first assisted in the business and cultural life of their adoption," Mr. Green said in a letter to the Musicians' President James C. Petrillo. He praised Herman Kenin, president of local 99.

HELP SELL UNION BROOMS

Chicago.—The AFL Retail Clerks, in an all-out drive to organize State Street department stores, have been assured help of the AFL Laundry and Whisk Makers Union. The clerks have been asked to the broomakers by pushing union-made brooms on sale in the stores.

ASKS ITU STAMP

Washington.—Rep. James J. Delaney of New York has asked Congress to authorize issuance of a special three-cent postage stamp in honor of the 100th anniversary of the International Typographical Union of the AFL.

You Can't Measure Industrial Peace By the Number of Strikes, Says Ching

Washington.—Cyrus S. Ching, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, declared that you can't measure the stability of good industrial relations by the number of strikes.

And he thinks it is time for the nation to "take our bearings and devise a national policy on labor which will help us set our future course with confidence."

Mr. Ching's observations were made at a news conference summing up lessons learned by the federal mediation service in the past by cases brought to it by labor and management.

He suggested that people ought to be more interested in peaceful trade lines and strike statistics before judging the progress of industrial relations.

The number of strikes in any given period of time or the number of man-days lost cannot measure by reason of stoppages is no reliable yardstick of industrial unrest or deterioration of such relations," he said.

"There are too many economic and political factors beyond the control of employers or unions to warrant reliance upon such a crude method of measurement.

A high incidence of strikes in one year may mean that the industrial atmosphere is being cleared of trouble-some issues and give promise of pacific relations over the next period.

"There appear to be many people, particularly during a period of strikes in important industries, who view the future of industrial relations in our country with foreboding.

"Such pessimists usually read the speeches they make, the letters they send, express apprehension and a conviction that industrial relations are deteriorating instead of stabilizing. These people do not see the present in the light of what has happened the past or never knew it."

Mr. Ching continued cautioned, in effect, that newspaper displays of failures in industrial relations do not obscure the successes. He said:

"It is understandable that the press should give prominence in news reports to labor disputes featuring dramatic episodes. The tens of thousands of agreements which result from the realistic collective bargaining of intelligent and cooperative management representatives and trade union leaders and which do not result in strikes, have little news value.

"There appears to be nothing particularly newsworthy in the tens of thousands of settlements of grievances achieved every year through the processes of collective bargaining or voluntary arbitration under the terms of management-labor agreements.

"We live in a democracy. Our democratic ideals recognize conflict within our industrial as well as to our political institutions. Under a free democratic system, we shall continue to have strikes and labor-management disturbances. They are the price we pay for our freedom.

"Those freedoms can be retained and their abuse lessened in the past by remitting efforts by all—particularly, management and union leaders and government representatives — to improve human relations in labor-industry and to promote those practices which result in the most effective collective bargaining.

"I am convinced that great strides are being made toward this objective."

Mr. Ching discussed some aspects of private pension plans as a substitute for the government social security system. An immediate study of the problem was necessary, he said, because there was a risk of many strikes occurring as we went on far along the present course.

Many employers, he said, contended they were in no position to add pensions to their costs; and that employes of these companies "can be expected to demand the same measure of economic security through private welfare plans as enjoyed by workers of other locals of their international union.

"If it is social security that is sought, the attainment should not depend upon the economic success or failure of a particular business enterprise.

"The events of the last 3 years present a picture of the nation drifting into a system under which existing federal benefits are supplemented by private plans of the most extraordinary plans established by means of collective bargaining or arbitration.

"This may be wise or, on the other hand, it may be imprudent. It is not my function as director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to express any views as to the proper course to pursue.

"Before the drift goes too far, however, it would be well to take our bearings and devise a national policy which will help us to set our future course with deliberation. If this is not done promptly, the nation may have to pay a high price in additional stoppages called to commend initiation of private employer plans."

The Young Gompers

An incident from "The Education of a Labor Leader," by Merton Wahengrad, originating 12:30 P.M., EST, Jan. 22 over National Broadcasting Company as "The Eternal Light" program:

The scene is a political rally in Tompkins Square, New York.

ORATOR: *My friends,* I say to you . . . there is no alternative to revolution.

VOICE: That's right.

ORATOR: The system is corrupt.

VOICE: Right.

ORATOR: We must destroy it, root and branch.

GOMPERS: Mr. Speaker,

ORATOR: Is there an objection?

GOMPERS: Yes, there is.

VOICE: Go back your head.

ORATOR: No, let's hear the young man. Do you say young man, that the system must be defended?

GOMPERS: I say it must be improved.

ORATOR: Improved. Before you can build a new house you must tear the slums down.

GOMPERS: That's fine for houses. But you're dealing with human lives, not with building blocks.

ORATOR: Those who oppose us must be destroyed.

GOMPERS: Mr. Speaker, you are confusing yourself with God.

ORATOR: We must train ourselves to be ruthless . . . in order to achieve a better world.

GOMPERS: Then you will train yourself to be a tyrant and your better world will be a prison house.

VOICE: He talks like a reformer!

ORATOR: Young man, how can you improve that which resists improvement?

GOMPERS: We must build a trade union movement. We must fight for fairer hours and better wages. That doesn't call for destruction. That calls for bargaining. We don't need a millenium. We need higher wages now. We need shorter hours now. We need to improve working conditions now as that a man . . .

ORATOR: Excuse me, we are talking about different things. I am talking about a great dream, about a vision, and you keep talking about . . .

GOMPERS: About bread and butter.

ORATOR: A young man's eyes should be focussed on the stars, not upon his dinner pail.

GOMPERS: It's easier to look at stars when your stomach is full.

GOMPERS: But I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that you have to take the long view. To see things in the long run.

GOMPERS: But the worker gets his wages in the short run; he feeds his family in the short run; he enjoys an extra hour of leisure in the short run.

VOICE: Right.

GOMPERS: Mr. Speaker, we laugh in the short run. A finger bleeds in the short run. We rejoice and sorrow and live in the short run. In the long run we all die.

Woll Says Repealing Taft-Hartley Best Way to Get Rid of Denham

Washington.—J. Albert Woll, AFL general counsel, said that Robert N. Denham, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, has raised a "serious question as to the fitness" of his continuing in office.

Mr. Woll said Mr. Denham made "a sorry spectacle" in his pro-Taft-Hartley and bitter anti-labor speech before the New York City Building Trades Employers' Association. He said some persons have suggested repeal of the law.

"The better suggestion is to get rid of Mr. Denham," Mr. Woll said. He said in a statement:

"Mr. Denham's speech before the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York characterizing the Taft-Hartley Act as a 'labor relations Board as furnishing 'booby traps' for the unwary employer is a fall and implying that these decisions are the principles written in invisible ink, to come out only when the short run suits the purpose of the employer is completely to comply with the law.

"The disagreement between Mr. Denham and the board concerning the proper interpretation to be given the provisions of this act has brought the suggestion from many that Mr. Denham be removed as general counsel. Since this difference of interpretation demonstrates the predicament in which employers and labor finds itself when it attempts to comply with the Taft-Hartley Act.

"His public ridicule of the board's interpretation of the Taft-Hartley Act, his warning to employers that their interests would be affected adversely by these decisions, if allowed to stand, and his indirect but forceful plea to employers to institute action in the courts of appeals, with the end in view of reversing these board decisions, furnishes further evidence relative to his unfitness for the position he now holds.

"Organized labor at the time of the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, condemned its punitive anti-labor provisions and, calling attention to the general confusing and confusing language contained in them, stated that no one attempting to comply with them, would be able to determine with any degree of certainty what they meant. The present quarrel of Mr. Denham with the board's interpretation of some of these provisions demonstrates the predicament in which employers and labor finds itself when it attempts to comply with the Taft-Hartley Act.

"His public ridicule of the board's rules the committee had sat on legislation to which it disapproved.

"The House members voted last year to permit the committee to do what committee if it sat on a bill for more than 21 days," Mr. Keenan explained. "If they had not done so, the housing bill would not have passed. The minimum wage increase would not have been passed. The anti-pail tax bill the rivers and harbors bill, the social security increases would not have been passed. They would not only have failed to do so, but would have been acted upon at all.

That's why republican-liberal forces worked so hard to defeat the proposal to return to the 21-day rule.

AFL Urges House Keep Rules Reform

Washington.—The AFL Joint and whole-heartedly in the hardest battle of the new session of Congress to prevent the House from restoring the power of its rules committee to pigeonhole legislation.

Washington.—The AFL Joint Executive Board for Political Education, said "the single most important vote of the last session of Congress was the vote to curb the arbitrary veto powers of the House rules committee." He said that since the rules committee had sat on legislation to which it disapproved.

"The House members voted last year to permit the committee to do what committee if it sat on a bill for more than 21 days," Mr. Keenan explained. "If they had not done so, the housing bill would not have passed. The minimum wage increase would not have been passed. The anti-pail tax bill the rivers and harbors bill, the social security increases would not have been passed. They would not only have failed to do so, but would have been acted upon at all.

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75-Cent Minimum Wage Takes Effect January 25

AFL Men Find Truman A 'Sidewalk Boss'

Washington.—AFL members working on the White House reconstruction job have the nation's most distinguished "sidewalk boss."

He is President Truman.

From his home base, Mr. Truman has been interested in restoring the White House and related proposals to tear it down. He has surprised workmen, foremen and ordinary construction superintendents by turning up at their elbows asking questions about the work.

"After all," reports The New York Times, "he used to live in the house until it threatened to collapse on him and his family."

AFL Wins Fight To Kill Oleo Tax

Washington.—The federal tax on oleomargarine is dead.

The Senate voted 50-16 on Jan. 18 to repeal the tax. The House voted last year to kill the tax.

The Senate vote gave the AFL a double victory. Not only was the tax became after more than a quarter century of continuing effort.

When the House and Senate complete action on the Senate-passed bill in conference, the measure will go to President Truman for his signature.

Passage of the bill marks the victory for one of labor's objectives in this second session of the 81st Congress.

AFL Federal Minimum Wage Law Effective

Washington.—The new 75-cent minimum hourly wage under the Federal Wage and Hour Law will become effective at 12:01 a.m. January 25, 1950.

Administered by the Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, the new minimum hourly wage covers the maximum approval of labor unions, will increase wage income by varying amounts, to an estimated one and one-half million workers.

The new amendments to the Federal Wage and Hour Law, including stronger child labor and homework provisions, will affect the approximately 22 million workers in the country engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate commerce.

The 75-cent hourly minimum does not mean that every single one of the one and one-half million workers to benefit will receive a pay raise of 25 cents an hour from the present 40-cent hourly minimum. By far the greater number of these workers who will receive direct pay increases as a result of the new minimum wage have been earning at least 65 cents an hour already.

Two important changes have been made in general coverage under the new law. The first change extends coverage to workers engaged in processing commerce as well as producing commerce, and is covered under the old act.

The second change made by the Congress relates to that group of workers who were exempted because they were engaged in an occupation found by the Congress to be seasonal in nature. Employers of these workers and occupations in which they are engaged are closely regulated as directly essential to the production of goods for interstate commerce.

The amended act has a definition of the regular rate of pay which was not contained in the original law.

Minimum wage protection is extended to employes engaged in canning fish and to employes of carriers by air. Both types of employes were exempt from the minimum wage and overtime pay provisions before. Now only the overtime exemption applies. A new minimum wage and overtime exemption is provided for employes in certain laundries and cleaning and repairing establishments.

Also exempt from wage and hour provisions are employes of taxicab companies; employes of certain daily and weekly newspapers with a circulation of less than 4,000 irrigation which workers engaged in packing operated on a nonprofit or cooperative basis and which are sold or used for only agricultural purposes; employes of small telephone and forestry operations where the employer has fewer than seven employees.

The amendments define the term "retail or service establishment" and set up three tests.

The amendments strengthen the child-labor provisions by adding a definition of "oppressive child labor in the area covered by the act's ban on such labor. Under the amendments, child-labor coverage had applied on a commodity basis to employers engaged in the production of goods for interstate commerce, but did not apply to establishments engaged in intrastate commerce when no goods were produced. Under the amendments, this loophole is afforded. In addition, to children who have been employed engaged in interstate commerce as well.

The act also prohibits the employment of children under 16 years of age in occupations found and in designated hazardous occupations. Child-labor protection is extremely important, as it closes a loophole under which employers could previously engage children in manufacturing goods for interstate shipment for a period of 180 days before issuance of oppressive child labor. The amendments also allow children to work in farm jobs only outside of school hours and outside the school districts where they are living.

A child-labor exemption is broadened to include performers as well as actors in motion pictures and theatrical productions, and includes radio broadcasts. Information about the amendments to the act can be secured at any of the 10 regional or branch office of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions.

175 CITIES ASK FUNDS

Washington.—About 175 cities in 40 states, compiled of them in 25,000-40,000 population class, have indicated their desire to participate in the slum clearance and urban redevelopment program authorized by the Housing Act of 1949. The AFL has a special local Housing Authorities and Building Trades Councils to get behind this program in their home communities.

HENLE NAMED

Washington.—Peter Henle, AFL economist and member of the AFL housing committee, is one of 26 persons appointed by Raymond M. Foley, administrator of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency, to an advisory committee on slum clearance and urban development.

GERMAN, JAPANESE UNIONISTS VISIT US

Washington.—AFL President William Green greeted delegations of German and Japanese labor leaders in the AFL executive council room during a visit to AFL headquarters.

The visiting trades unionists came here under the Department of Labor's Cultural Labor Relations Board of countries to study the American labor movement. Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser directs the program.

Ichutaro Sushiro, chairman of the Central Labor Relations Board of Japan, who attended the University of Chicago in 1916, heads the German Japanese delegation.

Mr. Kaiser told both groups of visitors that the AFL is happy to work with the labor movements of their countries in the new International Confederation of Free Trade Unions organized in December in London.

PITTSBURGH RENTS UP

Pittsburgh.—Even with federal controls, rents in the Pittsburgh area have gone up $6,750,000 a year for 76,000 rental housing units since the end of the war. That means increases for one-fifth of the dwellings in the area.

BUILDING BEYOND CITIES

Washington.—The Housing and Home Finance Agency reports that twice as much housing is now being built outside city limits as in the 1920s. It said one of the reasons is that motor vehicles have increased the distance that can be traveled to and from work.

Get Millions to Listen to This Man!

Washington.—AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany urged that editors of labor newspapers publish this next regularly in order to build up the widest possible listening audience for the new AFL radio program. Please contact your local Mutual Broadcasting station for exact time of local broadcast and insert name of station and time in spaces provided.